



TOWN of TOLLAND/ 21 tolland green, tolland connecticut 06084

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To: Appropriations Committee
Energy & Technology Committee
Human Services Committee

RE: 2011/2012 LIHEAP Block Grant

To whom it may concern;

The LIHEAP Block Grant in previous years has played a pivotal part in addressing the needs of Tolland residents during the winter heating season. As the weather gets cooler and residents contact us about winter heating assistance, we struggle with how to help those households who will be literally 'left out in the cold' by the current income guidelines of the 2011/2012 Allocation Plan for the LIHEAP Block Grant.

During the 2010/2011 heating season, the Town of Tolland received heating assistance for 181 households. Of these, 69 would be ineligible under the proposed 2011/2012 LIHEAP income guidelines, and an additional 41 households that would be ineligible because they are utility heated. *More than half of Tolland households eligible for heating assistance in 2010/2011 will not qualify under the current proposal.*

Our Human Services department will work closely with utility providers to ensure that qualified utility heated households are enrolled in the utility companies' Matching Payment Plans, so these households will receive that benefit. However, those deliverable fuel households with income above the current income guidelines have no such program to assist them with their heating costs. These are the households that are at greatest risk in our community.

We appreciate the difficult situation that the legislature and your committees face as you make decisions that affect so many. We are hopeful that, in your deliberations, you will develop a LIHEAP Allocation Plan that is inclusive of those households with income levels higher than those currently proposed.

Sincerely,

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